

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH  
BIRTHDAY OF THELMA NEWMAN  
FRAZIER

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life Thelma Newman Frazier on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The daughter of farm workers Eugene Newman and Kate Robinson, Thelma was born on July 26, 1917 in Richland County, AR.

Thelma is truly a child of God having accepted Christ as her Lord and savior at an early age. She is a past member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and currently attends Shalom Church City of Peace.

Thelma was united in holy matrimony to Nathaniel Frazier, Sr. on April 17, 1941. To this union were born two children, Katie M. McKinney and Nathaniel Jr. Sadly, Nathaniel Jr. preceded her in death. In 1952, Thelma and her family migrated to St. Louis, MO. There she became active in the community. A devout member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Thelma worked tirelessly to carry out their mission.

Mrs. Frazier has been rewarded in life by her hard work and dedication to family. She has a devoted daughter, Katie M. McKinney, son-in-law, Lewis L. McKinney Sr., 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren. Her hard work has influenced her family tremendously. She is proud of all their accomplishments.

The matriarch of her family, Mrs. Frazier continues to live independently in St. Louis and is a constant support to her family through her unconditional love and encouragement. If only every child was blessed to have had a mother, grandmother or aunt like Thelma Newman Frazier, the world would be a better place. Happy birthday Mrs. Frazier, and may you be blessed with many, many more.

### RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2956, the so-called "Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act." This legislation is short-sighted, dangerous, and will not bring our Nation closer to success or Iraq closer to security. The only likely result would be to appease the anti-war activists and damage the national security of the United States.

Throughout this country, Americans are growing weary with this war. No one likes war, and every loss pains us. Unfortunately the arguments from the anti-war activists are becoming persuasive. These activists have been able to shape the debate on the war by focusing on the number of U.S. military casualties and the level of violence in Iraq. I do not trivialize these issues. Every soldier's death is a horrendous tragedy for our Nation and a family. In the 4th District of Kansas we have

lost 11 young men in the Global War on Terror, and we must never forget their sacrifice.

However, focusing solely on these grave issues does not address the most basic question facing our Nation in Iraq. The fundamental question of Iraq is, "what are the consequences of success and failure?" Unfortunately, the consequences of losing this war are rarely discussed, and I fear this legislation will likely be passed by this House. The Democrats are fond of saying that we have "lost" in Iraq. While I do not agree with this assessment, I think they need to answer who we lost to. If we lost, who won? Can the Democrats answer this question, and if they do, can the American people live with the answer? The reality is that this ill-advised approach will have dire consequences on Iraq and the United States.

With the premature withdrawal of American Forces from Iraq this legislation accomplishes the first step in al Qaeda's four-prong plan in Iraq. Starting with forcing the U.S. military out of Iraq and ending with the use of Iraq and the wider Middle East to launch additional attacks on Western governments and the U.S. homeland, al Qaeda has a clear plan for global terrorism. Unfortunately, the Democrats only provide the American people with a clear plan for defeat.

Throughout the Iraq War, the President and his military commanders have continually altered both strategy and tactics to meet the changing threats posed by our enemy. The latest strategy, called a "New Way Forward," was outlined by the President at the beginning of this year. This strategy included an additional 21,500 American troops in order to achieve a six-part strategy, which involves letting the Iraqis lead, isolating extremists, and create space for political progress.

This new strategy acknowledges that the Iraqis must ultimately take responsibility for the security and stability of Iraq while understanding that the Coalition Forces have an integral role in helping to provide security for the country in order to allow the Iraqi government and military to succeed. Since January, steps have been taken to fully implement the New Way Forward plan, and only in the last month have all additional forces finally been put into place.

There is still much work to do, but coalition forces are seeing some early signs of progress from this approach. Sectarian murders in Baghdad are now down from January, and because U.S. and Iraqi forces are living among the people they secure, many Iraqis are now coming forward with information on where the terrorists are hiding. Progress is being made at the local level, including more tribal sheiks joining the fight against al Qaeda, citizens forming neighborhood watch groups, young Sunnis signing up for the army and police, and more Shia rejecting militias.

Although progress is being made, it is certainly not moving at the speed I, nor the American people, want. However, the reality is that the "New Way Forward" strategy has only recently entered full implementation. It has not had a chance for success or failure. To change course at this time will only resolve us to defeat, while not providing us an opportunity to succeed. We must give the "New Way Forward" a chance, and not just resign America and its military to failure and Iraq to civil war and a potential genocide.

The Democrats may not understand the dangers of a withdrawal approach, but the

Iraqis do. Hoshiyar Zebari, the Iraqi foreign minister, recently said of the dangers of a premature U.S. military withdrawal, "The dangers vary from civil war to dividing the country or maybe to regional wars. In our estimation the danger is huge. Until the Iraqi forces and institutions complete their readiness, there is a responsibility on the U.S. and other countries to stand by the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people to help build up their capabilities."

Madam Speaker, this is a delicate and dangerous issue. It is essential that we have all the available facts before making decisions on how to move forward towards success. This is why I am looking forward to the September report from General David Petraeus, the U.S. Commander in Iraq, and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker. The progress report will provide essential information on the current situation so Congress and the President can make an informed decision on the next steps in Iraq.

The Democrat plan has real consequences: the likely collapse of the Iraqi state and the creation of terrorist havens. It will embolden the terrorists and endanger the security of our homeland. Now is not the time for knee-jerk reactions. Now is the time for thoughtful consideration, examination of the options and consequences, and creating solutions that will make America more secure, not less. Although patience is not the word Americans want to hear, the consequences are too high to make uninformed decisions prior to reviewing the September progress report. For if we bring the troops home prematurely, we also risk bringing the war home.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposition to this legislation.

REV. DR. LARRY WAYNE ELLIS  
AND FIRST LADY VANDERLER  
ELLIS HONORING THEIR 20  
YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT PIL-  
GRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Doctor Larry Wayne Ellis and his wife, First Lady Vanderler Ellis, on their two decades of leadership at Pilgrim Baptist Church, located in San Mateo, California, within my Congressional District.

Pastor Larry Wayne Ellis, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, graduated in 1975 from Austin Peay State University located in Tennessee. In 1981, Dr. Ellis earned a Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Theological Seminary. In 1988, he was awarded a master's degree in counseling psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family counseling from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1995 from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. Currently, he is vice president and professor at Southern Marin Bible Institute and teaches at Golden Gate Seminary.

In August 1986, the Bay Area Baptist Congress of Christian Education named Dr. Ellis president of their organization. He was selected as Pastor of the Year in 1988, president of the Ministers' Council and moderator for the Bay Area Baptist District Association.